



# Exploring Census Records using the Digital Archives of Norway

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## OBJECTIVES:

You will be able to find a person in the following census records for Norway:

- 1663-1666 (Scanned some Searchable – not complete 1907, )
- 1701 (Scanned and Searchable)
- 1769-1855 (Scanned and Searchable – not for the whole country)
- 1801 (Scanned and Searchable)
- 1865 (Scanned and Searchable)
- 1870 (Kongsvinger, Lillehammer, Gjøvik)
- 1875 (Scanned and Searchable – searchable not complete)
- 1885 (cities)
- 1891 (Scanned and Searchable – Searchable not complete)
- 1900 (Searchable)
- 1910 (Searchable)
  
- 1883, 1899, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1923 Kristiania (Oslo 1923 incomplete)
  
- 1814 Moss (city)
- 1920 Hamar (city)
- 1922 Bergen (city)
- 1925 Trondheim (city)
- 1934 Strinda (parish)

The censuses for Norway are a count and description of the population and have been taken by the government as well as by ecclesiastical officials. They were taken primarily for population studies and taxation purposes.

When you search a census record, take the following into consideration:

- A given name may not always be as complete as the name recorded in the church records
- Spelling may vary for names and places

- If a family is not at the expected address, search the surrounding area
- Information may have been provided by a neighbor or someone in the family who does not know the correct information

Census records can provide family relationships, age, year of birth, description of property, and place of birth. Census records are especially valuable because they list a large portion of the population. They may also provide information when all or portions of other records are missing. Generally we find more complete information in the later census records.

**The 1663-1666 census** was taken over two years, one clerical (taken by the parish priest) and one civil (taken by the civil authorities). When possible search both as they supplement each other. This census includes the value of the farm, head of household and all male children over the age of twelve, as well as share crofters (tenant farmers) and servants. Sometimes the recorder lists all male children, regardless of age. This census covers the rural areas of the country. In a case where the head of household is a woman (widow), she may be listed as a widow, but seldom by name or age. Usually she is referred to as *enken* (the widow). The content of the clerical and civil records are often the same, but sometimes one is more complete than the other, and it is wise to consult them both. For instance, the last name, patronymic name, may be listed in one but not in the other, and sometimes the age of a person is only listed in one of them. The clerical census is often the more complete of the two records. This census record is missing for a few places. See link: <https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=39>

Census headings can be found in the FamilySearch wiki for several of the censuses. [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/b/b2/Census\\_Register\\_Headings\\_for\\_Norway.pdf](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/b/b2/Census_Register_Headings_for_Norway.pdf)

**The 1701 census** is similar to the 1664-1666 census and will list the name of the farm, name of the farmers, their ages, names and ages of their sons, and names and ages of their servants. However, this census will list all males from age one and older, and if a servant came from a different parish, it will also list the name of the parish he came from. Both the 1664-1666 and the 1701 are available online at the Digital Archives of Norway in a scanned format. See link: There are some additional censuses between 1600-1855 that are available on microfilm at the Family History Library as well as online at Digitalarkivet (The Digital Archives of Norway), and the 1758 census for Rogaland county is available in book form at the Family History Library. See link:

<https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=38>

**The 1801 census** is available on microfilm at the Family History Library as well as online in a searchable database at Digitalarkivet of Norway. This census is the first national census and includes the entire population, cities as well as rural areas. Here you will find the residence for each person, name, status in the family, age, marital status, occupation, and remarks. See link: <https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=13>

Complete census enumerations were taken between **the years of 1815-1860**. These were intended to be purely statistical, but in some cases the enumerator did record information about individual or families as well. Some are available on microfilm at the Family History Library

There is a census record for **Gjerstad, Aust-Agder County for the year 1835**. This census is a

lot like the 1801 census, but in addition, lists the number of domestic animals and farm production. This census is available at the Family History Library on microfilm no. 1283363 item 4.

**The 1865 census** is available on microfilm at the Family History Library, as well as online in a searchable and scanned database at Digitalarkivet of Norway. See link below:

<https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=7&it%5B%5D=15>

It is the earliest census in Norway that gives a place of birth for each person. This census was taken December 31<sup>st</sup> 1865. It lists the following information.

1. Farms or localities. Name/ Number
2. Residences
3. Household
4. Name of each person
5. Status or occupation
6. Marital status
7. Age
8. Place of birth
9. Religious affiliation
10. Retarded, deaf and dumb, blind. If retarded, note if this has been since birth.
11. Total population of each household
12. Livestock
13. Types of crop sowed in 1865
14. Remarks

**The 1875 census** is available on microfilm at the Family History Library. This census was taken December 31<sup>st</sup> 1875. It is available searchable as well as in a scanned database at Digitalarkivet of Norway. See link:

<https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=5>

The online version is not complete for the whole country as of yet. It gives the following information:

1. Households, list a [1] for each separate household then each person in each household
2. Number listing of each person (1, 2, 3 etc.)
3. Name of each person (will also list people who are temporarily visiting, who reside in the household)
4. Usual residence for those who are visiting
5. In which building on the farm each person resides
6. Sex (male/female)
7. Position in the family (head, wife, son, daughter, parent, servant, lodger, visitor, etc.).
8. Persons age 15 and older if single, married, widower, widow, divorced.
9. Persons age 15 and older, occupation or from whom they receive support.
10. Year of birth.
11. Place of birth.
12. Citizenship, if not born in Norway.
13. Religion, if not a member of the state church (Lutheran Church).
14. If mentally retarded.

15. If a person was mentally retarded or deaf before age 4.

**The 1885 census** is available online in a searchable database at Digitalarkivet of Norway. It include mainly the cities. See the following link:

<https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=4>

**The 1900 census** is available on microfilm at the Family History Library as well as in a searchable database online at Digitalarkivet of Norway. <http://digitalarkivet.arkivverket.no/en-gb/ft/sok/1900>

**The 1910 census** is a searchable database available online at Digitalarkivet in Norway. See link:

<https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=19>

There are Municipal censuses for cities of **Hamar 1920, Moss 1814, Kristiania (Oslo) 1883, 1899, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1907, 1923, Trondheim 1925, Bergen 1922, and Strinda parish 1934**. These online censuses may be accessed at the following link:

<https://digitalarkivet.no/en/search/sources?s=&from=&to=&format=all&it%5B%5D=15>

These are the censuses available for Norway, but more may become available, as Digitalarkivet plans on putting all the Norwegian records online. Some are under privacy law, but as law permits, more will eventually become available.

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